

How to Write A Thesis Statement

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ASSUME YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT WHITE SUPREMACY.

To begin, make an assertion--a simple statement that mentions your topic and position regarding it. The exact wording of an assertion seldom ends up in the final essay, but the assertion helps you focus and helps you develop a clearly articulated thesis:

1. I think white supremacy is a terrible thing.

[This assertion is a start. However, it stops at the level of a moral evaluation and does not provide an analysis.]

2. White supremacist ideas and practices are always destructive to the spirits and self-esteem of Black people.

[This preliminary thesis is more developed because it gives reasons--emotional--but the word *always* is too general and misleading and the vocabulary of *Black people* lacks specificity.]

3. There are white supremacist ideas and practices in Saturday morning cartoons that undermine the self-esteem and spirits of Black children.

[This preliminary thesis is more specific because it identifies a mechanism that is destructive and narrows the group of people affected, but the word *in* lacks clarity.]

4. All too frequently, Saturday morning cartoons depend upon white-supremacist images and concepts that have the power to undermine the self-esteem and spirits of Black children.

[This preliminary thesis identifies and refines the generalization "ideas and practices," but the statement is still quite sweeping.]

5. Saturday morning cartoons routinely encode white supremacist ideas in the visual depiction of characters and the selection of humorous scenarios. Cartoon practices such as these have the power to undermine the self-esteem and spirits of Black children.

6. _____ is a Popular Saturday morning cartoon that encodes white supremacist ideas in the visual depiction _____ and the _____. Cartoon practices such as these have the power to undermine the self-esteem and spirits of Black children.

7. Write your own.